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9/93

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.
BRODESSER ET AL-2 PCTTRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/914972

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/DE00/00585INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
MARCH 2, 2000PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED
MARCH 8, 1999

TITLE OF INVENTION

SUCTION SYSTEM FOR AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

KAY BRODESSER; HANS-PETER DRESPLING; HANS JENSEN; GÜNTER KACHLER; HORST
SCHNEIDER; JÜRGEN STEHLIG

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371 (f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(I).
4. ☒ A proper Demand for International Preliminary Examination was made by the 19th month from the earliest claimed priority date.
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☒ is transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau)
 - b. ☐ has been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ A translation of the International Application into English (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☐ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been transmitted by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has **NOT** expired.
 - d. ☐ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ A translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4)).
10. ☐ A translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern other document(s) or information included:

11. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
12. ☒ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
14. ☐ A substitute specification.
15. ☒ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
16. ☒ Other items or information:

3 sheets of formal Drawings

Applicant Claims Priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German Application No. No. 199 09 850.6 filed March 8, 1999.Applicant Claims Priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 of: PCT No. PCT/DE00/00585 filed March 2, 2000

APPLICATION NO. (if known, see 37 CFR 1.3)

09/914972

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/DE00/00585ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO.
BRODESSER ET AL-2
PCT☒ The following fees are submitted:**Basic National Fee (37 CFR 1.492(a)(1)-(5)):**

Search Report has been prepared by the EPO or JPO\$860.00

International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)

.....\$690.00

Neither international preliminary examination fee paid (37 CFR 1.82) nor
international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO.....\$1,000.00International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482)
and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(2)-(4).....\$100.00**ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =**Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ____ 20 ____ 30
months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).

CALCULATIONS

PTO USE ONLY

\$ 860.00

Claims	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate		
Total Claims	12 - 20 =	- 0 -	X \$18.00	\$	
Independent Claims	1 - 3 =	- 0 -	X \$80.00	\$	
Multiple dependent claim(s) (if applicable)			+ \$270.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$	
Reduction by 1/2 for Small Entity status.				\$	
SUBTOTAL =				\$	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than ____ 20 ____ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f)).				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 860.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				See cover sheet attached to assign \$ to be charged to Deposit Acct.	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$ 860.00	
				Amount to be: refunded	\$
				charged	\$

Applicant claims Small Entity status.

- a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 860.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.
- b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 03-2468 in the amount of \$ _____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 03-2468. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

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I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10, on the date indicated above, and is addressed to the Ass't. Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

Lisa L. Vulpis
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Edward R. Freedman
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PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: BRODESSER ET AL 2 PCT
PCT SERIAL No: PCT/DE00/00585 PCT FILED: MARCH 2, 2000
PRIORITY: 199 09 850.6 PRIORITY FILED: MARCH 8, 1999
TITLE: SUCTION SYSTEM FOR AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

ATT: BOX PCT APPLICATION
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination in the above-identified U.S.
National Phase of PCT, please amend this patent application as
follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, above line 1, and below the title, please insert
the following new paragraphs:

--CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Applicant claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §119 of German
Application No. 199 09 850.6, filed on 8 March 1999. Applicant
also claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 of PCT/DE00/00585, filed
on 2 March 2000. The international application under PCT article
21(2) was not published in English.

On page 1, after the third paragraph and above the fourth paragraph, please insert the following paragraphs:

--European Patent 0 155 685 A2 discloses an intake system whose air distributor is connected via intake manifolds to flanges which are in turn mounted in cylinder blocks of an internal combustion engine. The intake manifolds are assigned in two parts, each consisting of an upper pipe section, which is bent in a U shape and is connected to the air distributor at the side, plus an essentially unbent extension section which is connected to the respective flange. The intake manifolds are guided in such a way that adjacent intake manifolds intersect beneath the air distributor.

European Patent 0 984 155 A2 and European Patent 0 984 156 A2 disclose intake systems in which the intake manifolds are each composed of two complementary halves.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 to 13 and replace them with new claims 14 to 26, as follows:

14. An intake system with a modular design for an internal combustion engine, having an air distributor module (2) made of plastic which can be connected to an air intake of the internal combustion engine, each having a plurality of one-piece intake

manifold modules (6) made of plastic, each being manufactured as a separate part from the air distributor module, each connected at its one pipe end (7) to the air distributor module (2), and each being assigned to one combustion chamber of the internal combustion engine, and having at least one flange module (9) made of plastic in one piece, to which at least one of the intake manifold modules (6) is connected at its other pipe end (8) and which can be mounted on the internal engine.

15. An intake system according to Claim 14, characterized in that each intake manifold module (6) is designed as a blow-molded part, i.e., as a part produced by a blow-molding method.

16. An intake system according to Claim 14, characterized in that each intake manifold module (6) is designed as an injection-molded part, i.e., as a part produced by an injection-molding method.

17. An intake system according to Claim 16, characterized in that the injection-molding method used to produce the intake manifold modules (6) works with a rotary slide technique or with a half-shell technique.

18. An intake system according to Claim 14, characterized in that each flange module (9) is designed as an injection-molded part, i.e., as a part produced by an injection-molding method,

which is integrally molded onto the minimum of one intake manifold module (6), where the respective pipe end (8) of the intake manifold module (6) is shaped in such a way that a form-fitting connection is created between the intake manifold module (6) and the flange module (9).

19. An intake system according to Claim 14, characterized in that two flange modules (9) are produced, each being assigned to one cylinder block of the internal combustion engine, with the intake manifold modules (6) which are arranged side-by-side being connected to one flange module (9) and to the other flange module (9) in alternation.
20. An intake system according to Claim 14, characterized in that the flange module (9) extends along one side of the air distributor module (2) and in parallel with it, and the minimum of one intake manifold module (6) is connected to an area of the air distributor module (2) that faces away from this side.
21. An intake system according to Claim 14, characterized in that the intake manifold modules (6) are each connected to the air distributor module (2) at the top.
22. An intake system according to Claim 14, characterized in that each intake manifold module (6) is joined to the air distributor module (2) by a welding method.

23. An intake system according to Claim 14, characterized in that the air distributor module (2) is modular in design and consists of a one-piece air distributor top part module (3) made of plastic and a one-piece air distributor bottom part module (4) made of plastic, where the intake manifold modules (6) are connected to the air distributor top part module (3).
24. An intake system according to Claim 14, characterized in that the modules (2, 3, 4, 6, 9) are made of a polyamide plastic.
25. An intake system according to Claim 14, characterized in that the modules (2, 3, 4, 6, 9) are made of a fiber-reinforced plastic, in particular a glass fiber-reinforced or carbon fiber-reinforced plastic, in particular a polyamide plastic.
26. A method of producing an intake system according to Claim 14, characterized in that the intake manifold modules (6) are produced by a blow-molding method; the pipe ends (8) assigned to a flange module (9) are introduced into an injection mold; this flange module (9) is produced by an injection-molding method wherein the pipe ends (8) introduced into the injection mold are embedded in the material of the flange module (9), and the pipe ends (7) assigned to the air distributor module (2) are connected to the air distributor module (2). --

REMARKS


The amendments to this patent application are as follows. The U.S. Specification has been amended on page 1 to provide a cross-reference to related patent applications.

The U.S. Specification has been amended on page 1 to insert a new paragraph to refer to prior art.

Claims 1 to 13 have been canceled and new claims 14 to 26 have been added.

No new matter has been introduced.

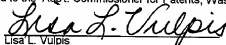
Respectfully submitted,
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Lisa L. Vulpis

3/pst/s

WO 00/53919

PCT/DE00/00585

SUCTION SYSTEM FOR AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

This invention relates to a suction system or an intake system made of plastic which, in the case of an internal combustion engine, distributes to the individual combustion chambers of the combustion engine the combustion air which is provided through an air supply for combustion in the internal combustion engine. This invention also relates to a method of producing such an intake system.

Such an intake system usually has an air distributor which is connected to the aforementioned air supply of the internal combustion engine and in which the air supplied is collected and distributed among individual intake manifolds. These intake manifolds open at one end into the air distributor and at the other end are connected to the respective combustion chamber of the internal combustion engine. Preferably a flange which is connected to the respective intake manifolds is provided for connection of the intake manifolds to the combustion chambers and to the engine block of the internal combustion engine.

German Patent 42 16 255 A1 describes an intake system of the type defined in the preamble, its air distributor being designed in one piece with the intake manifolds and produced by the blow-molding technology. European Patent 0 567 702 B1 also describes such an intake system whose air distributor is designed in one piece with the intake manifolds and is manufactured by the blow-molding technique, with a flange being integrally molded on the intake manifolds.

In a modern internal combustion engine, such an intake system is made of plastic, especially for reasons of weight. Because of the curved shape of the intake manifolds, however, it is relatively complicated to manufacture such an intake system. For example, a known

intake system is formed from two complementary half-parts, each being manufactured by an injection-molding method and having a complicated mold. Each half-part has one half-shell component of the intake manifolds. An intake manifold is completed only by joining the two half-parts together. A welding method, in particular a friction welding method is used to join the two half-parts, with welding collars that run completely around the half-parts and around each intake manifold half-shell being joined together. With an intake system designed in this way, a minimum distance is necessary between adjacent intake manifolds because of the welding collar in order to be able to perform the welding method for joining the half-parts. Therefore, the known intake system cannot be used for an internal combustion engine with an especially compact design.

With another intake system, at least one complex section which entirely encompasses the intake manifolds is produced in one piece as an injection-molded part with the help of a core melting method. Due to the absence of a welding collar, this intake system can be designed so that it is also suitable for use in a relatively compact internal combustion engine. However, injection molding by the core melting method is cost intensive.

In addition, the known plastic intake systems also have the disadvantage that any minor change in the design of the intake system to adapt it to installation conditions, engine types or the like is always associated with high tools costs, because injection-molded parts with a complex shape require complicated and therefore expensive tools and dies.

The present invention addresses the problem of providing an embodiment that can be adapted relatively inexpensively to different installation situations, engine types or the like for an intake system of the type defined in the preamble.

This problem is solved according to this invention by an intake system having the features of Claim 1.

This invention is based on the general idea of designing the individual components of the intake system--at least the air distributors, the intake manifolds and the flange--each as one-piece modules which can be joined together in the manner of a modular system to form any desired configurations of the intake system. In particular, different intake manifold modules, air distributor modules and flange modules may be provided and produced, with the respective connection sites or interfaces being standardized to such an extent that the different modules can be combined with one another in a variety of ways.

The flexibility of an intake system designed in this way is obvious, because for changes involving only one component of the intake system, only the manufacturing costs associated with it, in particular the tool costs, need be expended, because the other components of the intake system can still be used without any change. Secondly, this also yields the possibility of manufacturing intake systems with different configurations in parallel. For example, the same intake manifold modules can be used for a 4-cylinder engine and also for an 8-cylinder engine. With a traditional intake system, manufacturing costs are usually doubled to produce two different embodiments, but with the intake system according to this invention, the cost of manufacturing different variants is much lower. This also yields greater flexibility for the design of the internal combustion engine equipped with these parts.

According to a preferred embodiment, each intake manifold module may be designed as a blow-molded part, i.e., the intake manifold module is then a component manufactured by a blow-molding method. To allow the intake manifold module

to be manufactured as a blow-molded part, it must be made of a plastic having a suitable viscosity. An intake manifold module designed as a blow-molded part has an especially high-quality interior surface, so that flow through the intake manifold module can be optimized. In addition, a blow-molding method can be varied in an especially inexpensive manner to design different shapes of the blow-molded part produced by it. Accordingly, production of different variants of the intake manifold module and thus the intake system itself is relatively inexpensive.

According to an especially advantageous embodiment, each flange module may be designed as an injection-molded part, i.e., the flange module is a component manufactured by an injection-molding process, this flange module being designed by integral injection-molding on the respective intake manifold modules, so the respective end of the pipe of the respective intake manifold module is shaped to yield a form-fitting connection between the intake manifold module and the flange module. Such a form-fitting connection is achieved in particular by the fact that the cross section of the pipe expands in the direction of extent, with the integrally molded material of the flange surrounding this widened portion of the cross section and embedding it. Through the measure according to this invention, the flange module is connected to the respective intake manifold modules during its manufacture, so that no additional assembly steps are necessary.

In another embodiment which is adapted to an internal combustion engine having two cylinder blocks, especially a V6 or V8 engine, two flange modules may be provided, each assigned to one cylinder block of the internal combustion engine, with the intake manifold modules arranged side-by-side and connected to one flange module and to the other flange module in alternation. In particular, each flange

module may extend along one side of the air distributor module and in parallel with it, with the respective intake manifold modules connected to it in an area of the air distributor module facing away from this side. Therefore, in the case of two flange modules, this yields a constellation in which the flange modules extend along opposite sides of the air distributor module, and the intake manifold modules assigned to one flange module run between the flange modules next to the intake manifold modules assigned to the other flange module. Each of these embodiments permits an especially compact design which can be achieved especially easily through the intake system according to this invention.

The flexibility of the intake system according to this invention can be increased by also designing the air distributor module by a modular design so that it consists of a one-piece air distributor top part module and a one-piece air distributor bottom part module, with the intake manifold modules preferably being connected to the air distributor top part module.

The problem on which this invention is based is also solved by a method according to Claim 11. One particular advantage of this method is regarded as the fact that deviations in shape and position of the modules due to tolerance and shrinkage processes can be corrected with each integral molding or bonding of another module, so that finally the intake system according to this invention can maintain a relatively narrow tolerance.

Additional important features and advantages of the intake system according to this invention are derived from the subordinate claims, the drawings and the respective description of figures on the basis of the drawings.

It is self-evident that the features mentioned above and to

be explained below can be used not only in the combination indicated but also in any other combinations or they may also be used alone without going beyond the scope of the present invention.

A preferred embodiment of this invention is illustrated in the drawings and is described in greater detail in the following description.

The drawings show schematically:

Figure 1: a top view of an intake system according to this invention,

Figure 2: a side view of the intake system according to arrow II in Figure 1,

Figure 3: a front view of the intake system according to arrow III in Figure 1 and

Figure 4: a sectional view through the intake system according to sectional line IV in Figure 1, with the components of the intake system that are arranged behind the plane of the cross section in the direction of viewing being omitted to simplify the illustration.

According to Figures 1 through 4, an intake system 1 according to this invention has an air distributor module 2 with a modular design, consisting of an upper one-piece air distributor top part module 3 according to Figures 2, 3 and 4 and a lower one-piece air distributor bottom part module 4 according to Figures 2, 3 and 4. The air distributor top part module 3 and air distributor bottom part module 4 each have a collar or flange 5 which projects outward and runs completely around the part, with the two modules 3 and 4 being joined together at this collar.

Several (six in the present case) one-piece section pipe modules 6 are connected to the top side of the air distributor top part module 3 or they are connected to the air distributor top part module 3 and thus to the air distributor module 2. Each of these intake manifold modules 6 is assigned to a cylinder of an internal combustion engine (not shown) and is used to supply air to the respective combustion chamber. Although the air distributor modules 6 are connected to the air distributor module 2 at one pipe end 7, at the other pipe end 8 they are connected to a flange module 9 which can be mounted on the internal combustion engine. For this purpose, the flange module 9 has suitable mounting holes 10.

In the embodiment illustrated in the figures, the intake system 1 is configured for a V6 engine, so the two flange modules 9 are provided accordingly. Flange modules 9 each extend along one side of the air distributor module 2. The six intake manifold modules 6 are arranged side-by-side and are connected alternately to one or the other flange module 9. In addition, the intake manifold modules 6 of each flange module 9 are each connected to the air distributor module 2 in an area of the air distributor module 2 which faces the other flange module 9, so that adjacent intake manifold modules 6 run parallel to and alongside one another above the air distributor module 2. As indicated in Figures 1 through 3, this yields an especially compact design for the intake system 1 according to this invention.

Receptacles 11 in which an injection valve 12 can be mounted as indicated in Figure 4 are provided in the flange modules 9.

The air distributor top part module 3 is also equipped with a connection 13 on a front side of the intake system 1 for

connecting the intake system 1 to an air intake of the internal combustion engine. The air supplied through this air intake of the intake system 1 first penetrates into the air distributor module 2, is collected there and is then distributed to the individual intake manifold modules 6 from which the air supplied finally reaches the combustion chambers of the internal combustion engine.

Intake system 1 according to this invention is manufactured as described below.

First, the intake manifold modules 6 are produced by a suitable manufacturing method such as a blow-molding method or an injection-molding method. Due to the fact that they are manufactured as separate modules, it is relatively easy to vary the shape of the intake manifold modules 6; for example, the pipe diameter, the radius of curvature and the pipe length can be adapted to different configurations of the internal combustion engine in this way. In parallel with the production of the intake manifold modules 6, the air distributor top part module 3 and the air distributor bottom part module 4 can be manufactured separately, e.g., by a traditional injection-molding method.

The intake manifold modules 6, each assigned to one flange module 9, are then inserted into an injection mold at least at their pipe ends 8, and they are aligned if necessary. Following that, an injection-molding process can take place, wherein the respective flange module 9 is formed. Then the pipe end 8 of the intake manifold module 6 assigned to the respective flange 9 is designed so that it is encased by the material of the flange module 9 on both sides in the injection-molding process, i.e., on the inside and outside with respect to the intake manifold module 6. In addition, the wall thickness of the intake manifold module 6 is widened in this pipe end 8, thus creating on the whole a highly effective method of anchoring the intake

manifold module 6 in the flange module 9. The pipe end 8 is thus connected to the flange module 9 at least in a form-fitting manner. In order for the connection between the intake manifold module 6 and the flange module 9 to be of a high quality, strong and tight and designed for a long lifetime, the flange module 9 is mounted on the intake manifold modules 6 by means of a special method so as to form a bonded connection in which the plastics of the two modules 6 and 9 are fused together in the manner of a welding operation in the area of the connection. The plastics are selected to be compatible accordingly.

Following this, the other pipe ends 7 of the intake manifold modules 6 are connected to the air distributor top part module 3, for which purpose the connection of the intake manifold module 6 to the air distributor module 2 is designed here as a plug connection. The pipe end 7 assigned to air distributor module 2 is then designed as an outside connection, and the air distributor top part module 3 has an inside connection 14. Connections 7 and 14 which are joined together in this way can then be connected, preferably using a welding method, to form the most intimate possible connection, preferably a bonded connection or a chemical connection, between the intake manifold module 6 and the air distributor module 2. Likewise, an adhesive bond, a shrink-fit connection or a combination of different joining techniques may be used. Before or during the attachment of the air distributor module 2 to the intake pipe module 6, the components of the intake system may optionally be aligned.

Finally, the air distributor bottom part module 4 may be joined to the air distributor top part module 3 by using a traditional friction welding method. It is obvious that the connection of the two modules 3 and 4 of the air distributor module 2 can already be performed in advance here, so that the complete air distributor module 2 is then

joined to the intake manifold modules 6 accordingly.

CLAIMS

1. An intake system with a modular design for an internal combustion engine, having an air distributor module (2) made of plastic which can be connected to an air intake of the internal combustion engine, having a plurality of one-piece intake manifold modules (6) made of plastic, each being connected at its one pipe end (7) to the air distributor module (2) and each being assigned to one combustion chamber of the internal combustion engine, and having at least one flange module (9) made of plastic in one piece, to which at least one of the intake manifold modules (6) at its other pipe end (8) is connected and which can be mounted on the internal combustion engine.
2. An intake system according to Claim 1, characterized in that each intake manifold module (6) is designed as a blow-molded part, i.e., as a part produced by a blow-molding method.
3. An intake system according to Claim 1, characterized in that each intake manifold module (6) is designed as an injection-molded part, i.e., as a part produced by an injection-molding method.
4. An intake system according to Claim 3, characterized in that the injection-molding method used to produce the intake manifold modules (6) works with a rotary slide technique or with a half-shell technique.
5. An intake system according to one of Claims 1 through 4, characterized in that each flange module (9) is designed as an injection-molded part, i.e., as a part produced by an injection-molding method, which is integrally molded onto the minimum of one intake manifold module (6), where the respective

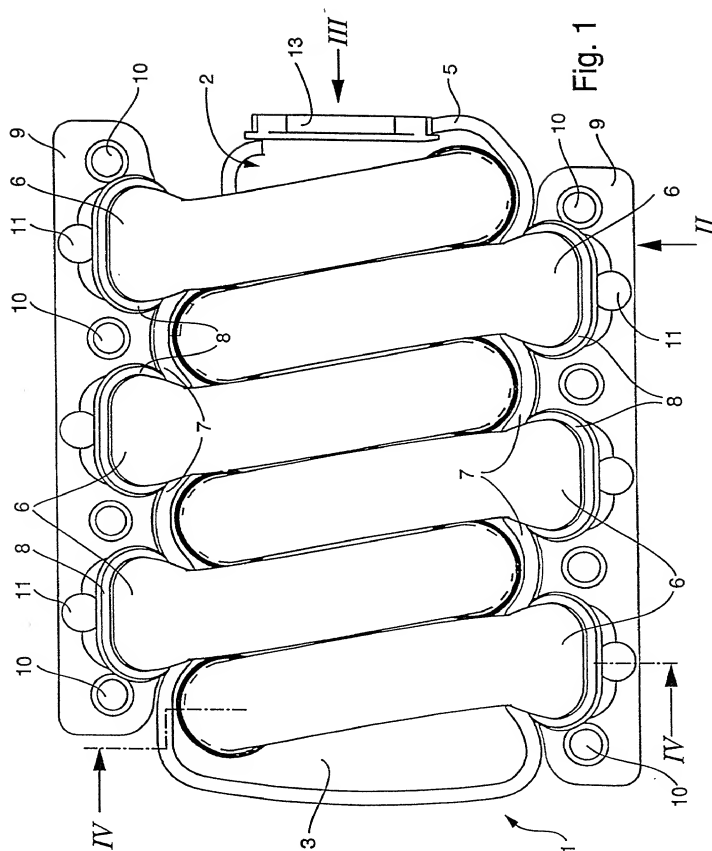
pipe end (8) of the intake manifold module (6) is shaped in such a way that a form-fitting connection is created between the intake manifold module (6) and the flange module (9).

6. An intake system according to one of Claims 1 through 5, characterized in that two flange modules (9) are produced, each being assigned to one cylinder block of the internal combustion engine, with the intake manifold modules (6) which are arranged side-by-side being connected to one flange module (9) and to the other flange module (9) in alternation.
7. An intake system according to one of Claims 1 through 6, characterized in that the flange module (9) extends along one side of the air distributor module (2) and in parallel with it, and the minimum of one intake manifold module (6) is connected to an area of the air distributor module (2) that faces away from this side.
8. An intake system according to one of Claims 1 through 7, characterized in that the intake manifold modules (6) are each connected to the air distributor module (2) at the top.
9. An intake system according to one of Claims 1 through 8, characterized in that each intake manifold module (6) is joined to the air distributor module (2) by a welding method.
10. An intake system according to one of Claims 1 through 9, characterized in that the air distributor module (2) is modular in design and consists of a one-piece air distributor top part module (3) made of plastic and a one-piece air distributor bottom part module (4) made of plastic, where the intake manifold

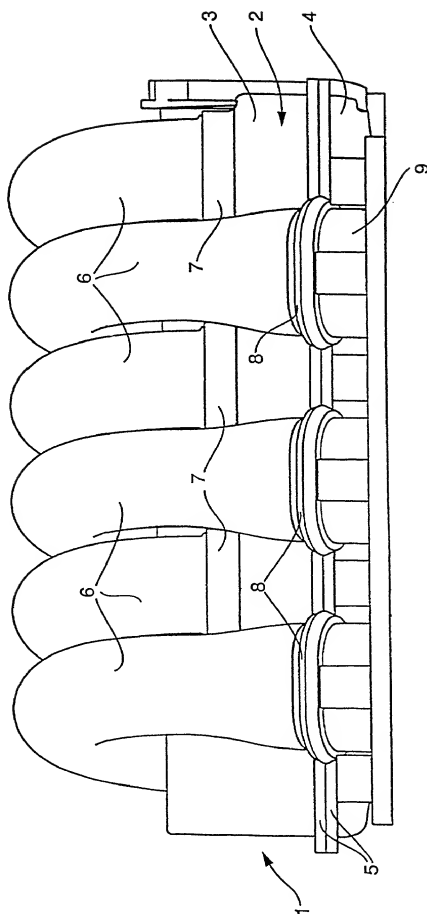
modules (6) are connected to the air distributor top part module (3).

11. An intake system according to one of Claims 1 through 10, characterized in that the modules (2, 3, 4, 6, 9) are made of a polyamide plastic.
12. An intake system according to one of Claims 1 through 11, characterized in that the modules (2, 3, 4, 6, 9) are made of a fiber-reinforced plastic, in particular a glass fiber-reinforced or carbon fiber-reinforced plastic, in particular a polyamide plastic.
13. A method of producing an intake system according to one of Claims 1 through 12, characterized in that the intake manifold modules (6) are produced by a blow-molding method; the pipe ends (8) assigned to a flange module (9) are introduced into an injection mold; this flange module (9) is produced by an injection-molding method wherein the pipe ends (8) introduced into the injection mold are embedded in the material of the flange module (9), and the pipe ends (7) assigned to the air distributor module (2) are connected to the air distributor module (2).

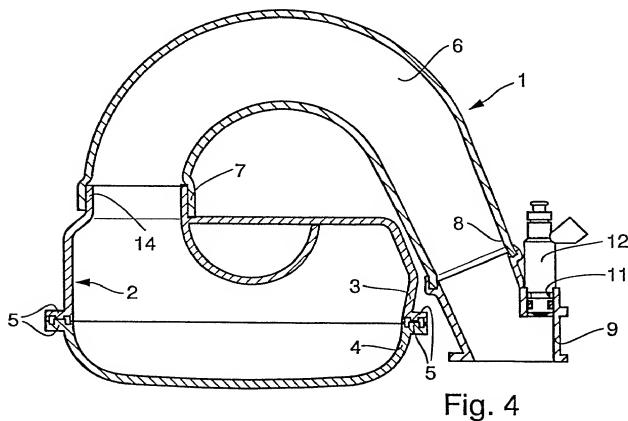
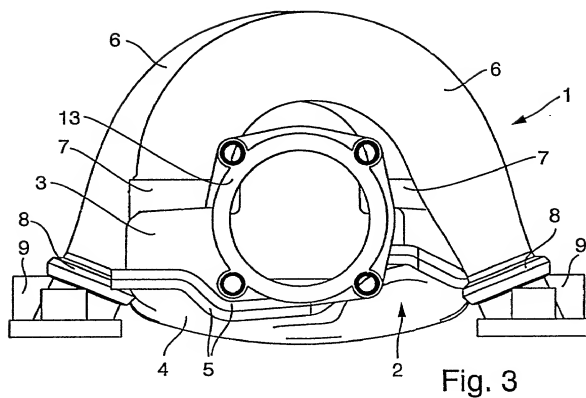
1/3



2/3



3/3



As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

SUCTION SYSTEM FOR AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE

the specification of which (check only one item below):

- ☐ is attached hereto.
- ☐ was filed as United States application
Serial No. _____
on _____
and was amended
on _____ (if applicable).
- ☒ was filed as PCT international application
Number PCT/DE00/00585
on 2 MARCH 2000
and was amended under PCT Article 19
on _____ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or of any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America listed below and have also identified below any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate or any PCT international application(s) designating at least one country other than the United States of America filed by me on the same subject matter having a filing date before that of the application(s) of which priority is claimed:

PRIOR FOREIGN/PCT APPLICATION(S) AND ANY PRIORITY CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119:

COUNTRY (if PCT, indicate "PCT")	APPLICATION NUMBER	DATE OF FILING (day, month, year)	PRIORITY CLAIMED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 119
GERMANY	199 09 850.6	8 MARCH 1999	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application Number)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) or PCT international application(s) designating the United States of America that is/are listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in that/those prior application(s) in the manner provided by the last paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(s) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application(s) and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

PRIOR U.S. APPLICATIONS OR PCT INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S. FOR BENEFIT UNDER 35 U.S.C. 120:

U.S. APPLICATIONS			STATUS (Check One)		
U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER	U.S. FILING DATE		PENDING	ABANDONED	
PCT APPLICATIONS DESIGNATING THE U.S.					
PCT APPLICATION NO.	PCT FILING DATE	U.S. SERIAL NUMBER ASSIGNED (if any)			

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agency(ies) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith (List name and registration number(s)):

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR (101)	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR (102)
<i>Way Brodeser</i>	<i>Dresepeling H.P.</i>
DATE 13 SEPTEMBER 2001	DATE 13 SEPTEMBER 2001

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2	FULL NAME OF INVENTOR	FAMILY NAME	FIRST GIVEN NAME	SECOND GIVEN NAME
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6	POST OFFICE ADDRESS	CITY	STATE & ZIP CODE/COUNTRY	

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SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 201	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 204
DATE 13 SEPTEMBER 2001	DATE 13 SEPTEMBER 2001
SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 205	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR 206
DATE 13 SEPTEMBER 2001	DATE 13 SEPTEMBER 2001